

Message Text

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NODIS

FOR ACTING SECRETARY FROM MCHENRY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, RH, CVIS

SUBJECT: RHODESIAN DRIVE FOR U. S. SUPPORT

1. THE NEW YORK TIMES' PLAY JULY 18 ON BISHOP MUZOREWA'S CURRENT DRIVE TO OBTAIN SUPPORT FOR SMITH'S TRANSITION GOVERNMENT IN CONGRESS AND AMONG THE AMERICAN PUBLIC RAISES THE LOGICAL POSSIBILITY THAT THE QUESTION OF A VISA FOR SMITH HIMSELF MAY ONCE MORE BE UNDER CONSIDERATION IN THE DEPARTMENT.

2. I WISH TO EXPRESS MY STRONG VIEW THAT IT WOULD BE DISASTROUS FOR OUR POLICY INTERESTS IN RHODESIA AND ALL OF AFRICA IF WE WERE TO GRANT IAN SMITH ENTRY AND THE RIGHT TO USE AMERICAN PLATFORMS. IN RHODESIA THE STRENGTH OF OUR POSITION FROM THE INCEPTION OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN HAS BEEN ITS FUNDAMENTAL NEUTRALITY OF APPROACH TO THE TRANSITION PROCESS. DESPITE THE FLAK FROM MANY QUARTERS, WE HAVE STEADFASTLY ADHERED TO OUR INSISTENCE ON A PLAN THAT PLAYS NO FAVORITES, YET ENSURES THAT ALL SIGNIFICANT ELEMENTS WILL HAVE A FAIR CHANCE TO COMPETE FOR POWER AND POSITION. IF WE NOW ACT IN FAVOR OF ONE OF THE PARTIES, WE WILL DESTROY ANY CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE WE HOPED TO PLAY IN THE SOLUTION OF THE
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RHODESIAN PROBLEM. MOREOVER, ADMISSION OF SMITH WOULD BE EQUALLY DISASTROUS FOR OUR LARGER RELATIONSHIPS IN THE REST OF AFRICA. NO AFRICAN LEADER WOULD UNDERSTAND. IT WOULD DESTROY THE STRONG BEGINNINGS THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS MADE IN DEVELOPING A POSITION OF TRUST AND CONFIDENCE WITH AFRICANS. IT WOULD UNDERCUT THE HISTORICAL GAINS WE HAVE FOR THE FIRST TIME MADE THROUGH OUR PRINCIPLED APPROACH TO

AFRICAN PROBLEMS INCLUDING RHODESIA.

3. GRANTING A VISA TO SMITH WOULD ALSO PLACE US IN VIOLATION OF THE UN CHARTER AND THE MANDATORY SANCTIONS ESTABLISHED BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL. THE IMPLICATIONS INVOLVED IN OUR SETTING OUT ON SUCH A UNILATERAL PATH REVERBERATE THROUGHOUT THE RANGE OF POLICY GOALS THE ADMINISTRATION HAS ESTABLISHED IN A STRONG UNITED NATIONS. THE EFFECT ON OUR CHANCE FOR LEADERSHIP AMONG AFRICANS AND NON-ALIGNED WOULD BE LASTING.

4. I REALIZE THAT A DECISION AGAINST A VISA FOR SMITH WILL BE UNPOPULAR IN MANY QUARTERS, MOST OF WHOM HAVE NOT DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES IN SUPPORT OF CIVIL LIBERTIES. WE WILL HAVE THE DIFFICULT TASK OF EXPLAINING A COMPLEX DECISION IN THE FACE OF SIMPLISTIC PRESENTATIONS BUT EXPLAIN IT WE MUST.

5. IN SHORT, I STRONGLY BELIEVE WE MUST PERSEVERE WITH OUR PRINCIPLED STANCE OF NEUTRALITY IN RHODESIA DESPITE THE OBVIOUS PRESSURES. TO VEER OFF THIS COURSE NOW WOULD RUIN MUCH MORE THAN A RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT.

MCHENRY

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